

Oakes-Amesia cryptantha C. Schweinfurth & P. H. Allen *sp. nov.*

Herba pusilla, epiphytica. Radices fibratae, pubescentes, numerosae. Caulis perbrevis, foliorum vaginis valde imbricatis omnino obtectus. Folia equitantia, vaginis articulata; laminae elliptico-lineares, acutae; vaginae conduplicatae. Inflorescentiae singulae vel tres, in foliorum superiorum axillis, racemosae, folia paulo excedentes. Flores parvi, cum segmentis liberis patentibus. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-ovatum, concavum, valde mucronatum. Sepala lateralia oblique ovata, concava, valde mucronata. Petala triangulari-cuneata, abrupte et late truncata vel leviter retusa. Labellum medio profunde trilobatum, valde concavum cum lobis lateralibus et lobi medii lateribus erectis; lobi laterales late oblongi, apice rotundati; lobus medius expansus subquadrato-cuneatus, apice truncatus; discus per medium tubulo percursus et supra tubulum fascia papillosa ornatus. Columna brevis, apoda, supra geniculata, antice cum processu rostellari elongato trilobato. Anthera operculata, incumbens. Pollinia quattuor.

Plant epiphytic, small, up to 5 cm. high. Roots slender, fibrous, finely pubescent, numerous. Stem obscure, entirely enveloped by a circle of leaves. Leaves equitant, coriaceous, about six or more in number, articulated to imbricating sheaths; blades elliptic-linear, acute, 1.8–3.9 cm. long, 3.5–4.5 mm. wide; sheaths conduplicate, short, 6–8 mm. long. Inflorescences one to three, springing from the upper axils, racemose, erect or arcuate, about 5.5 cm. long, apparently 9-flowered, with the short peduncle and lightly fractiflex rachis narrowly bialate. Bracts spreading, triangular-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, long-acuminate, amplexicaul, dorsally carinate as an extension of the bialate rachis. Flowers small, white, the lip being dark green marked with white. Perianth

parts widely spreading. Dorsal sepal oblong-ovate, concave, mucronate, 1-nerved, dorsally lightly carinate, the upper margins being minutely erose, about 2.7 mm. long and 1.25 mm. wide when expanded. Lateral sepals obliquely ovate, concave, mucronate, 1-nerved, dorsally carinate, with the upper margins minutely erose, about 2.9 mm. long and 1.5 mm. wide when expanded. Petals triangular-cuneate, abruptly and broadly truncate to lightly retuse at the apex with the upper margins minutely erose, 3-nerved through the center, about 3 mm. long and subequally wide above. Lip complex, deeply 3-lobed in the middle, concave with the lateral lobes and the sides of the mid-lobe erect in natural position, about 3.5 mm. long, the longitudinal center traversed by a narrow tube (with opening at the apex), above which is a linear-oblong fleshy papillose band beset with hairs at the apex; lateral lobes obliquely and broadly oblong with a rounded apex, porrect; mid-lobe subquadrate-cuneate when expanded with the opening of the tube in the center of the truncate apex and with a high fleshy keel on the under surface forming a prominent mucro when viewed from above. Column short, right-angled-geniculate near the middle, about 1.5 mm. high; from the sinus of the angle in front extends a porrect elongate rostellar process about 3 mm. long which is dilated above and prominently mucronate (thus 3-lobulate), the dilated portion on each side being decurved and forming a rounded semiobovate lobule; anther imbedded on the rostellar process (i.e. incumbent), elongate, abruptly sigmoid and semiglobose-dilated above; pollinia four, small, affixed to the apex of an elongate triangular-linear stipe.

At first sight *Allen & Allen 4196* appeared to represent a typical member of the well-marked genus *Ornithocephalus*. An examination of the flowers, however, revealed characters which could not be reconciled with

EXPLANATION OF THE ILLUSTRATION

PLATE X. OAKES-AMESIA CRYPTANTHA *C. Schweinfurth & P. H. Allen.* 1, plant, twice natural size. 2, flower, from side, six and two thirds times natural size. 3, dorsal sepal, six and two thirds times natural size. 4, petal, six and two thirds times natural size. 5, lateral sepal, six and two thirds times natural size. 6, lip, from above, six and two thirds times natural size. 7, portion of column, with rostellar process and anther in place, from side, six and two thirds times natural size. 8, anther with pollinia, natural position, from side, six and two thirds times natural size. 9, pollinia with stipe and viscid disc, natural position, from side, six and two thirds times natural size. 10, pollinia with stipe and viscid disc, extended, from above, six and two thirds times natural size. *Drawn by* GORDON W. DILLON.

OAKES-AMEZIA *cryptantha*
C Schweinf. & P.H. Allen

